

text for the music piece ID, music piece title, artist name, etc., and an icon corresponding to the rights information, on the display 20.

The GUI unit 101 obtains data corresponding to the contents, e.g., media contents ID, music piece title, artist name, rights information, etc., stored in the portable devices 5-1 or 5-2 or the memory card 9 from a transfer processing unit 103, and displays text for the music piece title, artist name, etc., and an icon corresponding to the rights information, on the display 20.

In the event that user operations request playing of contents, the GUI unit 101 supplies the music piece ID corresponding to the contents regarding which playing has been requested to a contents managing processing unit 102, and also requests playing of the contents to the contents managing processing unit 102.

In the event that user operations request transfer (check-out, copying, moving, etc.) of contents, the GUI unit 101 supplies the music piece ID corresponding to the contents regarding which transfer has been requested to the transfer processing unit 103, and also requests transfer of the contents to the transfer processing unit 103.

In the event that user operations request importing of contents, the GUI unit 101 supplies the media contents ID corresponding to the contents regarding which importing has

been requested to the transfer processing unit 103, and also requests importing of the contents to the transfer processing unit 103.

In the event that playing of contents is requested from the GUI unit 101, the contents managing processing unit 102 supplies the music piece ID corresponding to the contents regarding which playing has been requested to the music piece managing unit 104, and request a file name corresponding to the contents. Upon obtaining the file name from the music piece managing unit 104, the contents managing processing unit 102 obtains the contents from the music piece file storing unit 108-1 or 108-2, via the music piece managing unit 104, file searching unit 106, and database 107.

The contents managing processing unit 102 supplies the obtained contents to a PC (Protected Content) plug-in 109-1 or 109-2.

Upon the contents being supplied from the contents managing processing unit 102, in the event that the contents are not encrypted, the PC plug-in 109-1 decodes the encoded contents, and supplies the audio data to an audio output unit 110-1. Upon the contents being supplied from the contents managing processing unit 102, in the event that the contents are encrypted, the PC plug-in 109-1 decrypts the encrypted contents into plaintext, as well as decoding the

encoded contents, and supplies the audio data to the audio output unit 110-1. The audio output unit 110-1 generates audio signals based on the audio data, and outputs audio from the speaker 24.

At the time that contents are supplied from the contents managing processing unit 102, in the event that the contents are not encrypted, the PC plug-in 109-2 decodes the encoded contents, and supplies the audio data to an audio output unit 110-2. Upon the contents being supplied from the contents managing processing unit 102, in the event that the contents are encrypted, the PC plug-in 109-2 decrypts the encrypted contents into plaintext, as well as decoding the encoded contents, and supplies the audio data to the audio output unit 110-2. The audio output unit 110-2 generates audio signals based on the audio data, and outputs audio from the speaker 24.

The user can further additionally install PC plug-ins to the personal computer 1.

In the following description, the PC plug-ins 109-1 and 109-2 will be referred to simply as PC plug-in 109, unless there is the need to distinguish between the individual PC plug-ins 109-1 and 109-2.

Upon a contents transfer request from the GUI unit 101, the transfer processing unit 103 supplies the music piece managing unit 104 with the music piece ID corresponding to